

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A method of using a salivary biomarker to differentially diagnose carcinoma of the breast in a human test subject, said method comprising:

providing a salivary secretion specimen from a human subject to provide an individual salivary biomarker diagnostic for carcinoma of the breast, said biomarker soluble in said salivary secretion and selected from the group consisting of cancer antigen 15-3, tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53, oncogene c-erbB-2 and combinations thereof;

using the salivary secretion concentration of said individual biomarker to compare with a biomarker reference panel, said reference panel including at least one of cancer antigen 15-3, tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53, oncogene c-erbB-2 and protein biomarker constituents and combinations thereof; and

differentially identifying the diagnosis for said subject indicated by said comparison.

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said biomarker reference comprises a constituent panel developed using malignant tumor, benign tumor and control group populations.

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said individual biomarker is one constituent of a biomarker panel, said panel including at least one of cancer antigen 15-3, tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53 and oncogene c-erbB-2.

Claim 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said reference biomarker constituent panel includes value ranges for each said constituent.

Claim 5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the presence of at least one of oncogene c-erbB-2 and proteinaceous expressions of said oncogene identifies the said subject having a malignant breast carcinoma.

Claim 6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein each said constituent is associated with a concentration value.

Claim 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said concentration of cancer antigen 15-3 is at least about 100% higher for said subject having a malignant breast tumor than said subject having a benign tumor.

Claim 8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said concentration of oncogene protein 53 is at least about 25% lower for said subject having a malignant breast tumor than said subject having a benign tumor.

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said differential identification is an adjunct to a primary diagnostic method of testing said subject for carcinoma of the breast.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) A post-operative method of monitoring the inhibition of breast tumor growth, said method comprising:

providing a human test subject, said subject post-operative to the removal of a malignant breast tumor;

providing a salivary secretion specimen from said subject to develop a post-operative biomarker panel, said panel having constituents selected from the group consisting of cancer antigen 15-3, tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53, oncogene c-erbB-2 and combinations thereof;

comparing said post-operative biomarker panel to compare with a pre-operative biomarker reference panel for said subject; and

determining the post-operative inhibition of breast tumor growth by monitoring at least one constituent of said biomarker panels.

Claim 11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further including administering a chemotherapeutic regimen to said subject post-operatively.

Claim 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein one said chemotherapy includes a therapeutic dose of cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and fluorouracil.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said pre-operative and said post-operative panels include a C-erbB-2 biomarker constituent.

Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein said pre-operative and said post-operative panels include a tumor suppressor oncogene protein 53 biomarker constituent.

Claims 15-20. (cancelled).